

Indonesia



UNFF



Switzerland



ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE

“INTERLAKEN WORKSHOP”*



Country-led Initiative in Support of UNFF
on Decentralization,
Federal Systems in Forestry and National Forest Programmes

27-30 April 2004

Interlaken, Switzerland

BUWAL



SDC



CIFOR



IC

inter
cooperation

ITTO



PROFOR



CBD



WRI



WWF



FAO



Logistical information will be available in January 2004 at:

www.intercooperation.ch

* Logos and flags illustrate the official country partners and the partner organizations of the Workshop

Brazil



Canada



Ghana



Japan



Russian Federation



Uganda



Background

Throughout the world, local and regional governments are becoming increasingly involved in forest-related issues. In some cases such growing dynamism reflects government policies designed to decentralize forest governance and forest management. In other cases it reflects initiatives of local and regional governments themselves, including communities living in and surrounding forest areas, and the increasing power, leverage and resources they have.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) proposals emphasized the need to support National Forest Programs (*nfp*). Recognizing the global trends towards more decentralized decision-making and greater community participation in forest-related issues, *nfps* will have to give special thought and attention to how to incorporate leverage of national, regional and local governments, municipalities and communities.

Therefore, effective ways in incorporating such a large and diverse group into *nfp* processes and still keep these processes manageable should be sought.

In March 2002, at the 2nd United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF 2), the Governments of Switzerland and Indonesia and CIFOR announced their intention to organize a country-led initiative to support UNFF in order to facilitate international dialogue and exchange of information and experience on decision-making in decentralizing.

Objectives of the workshop

- To analyze the implications of decentralization in key aspects of forest management for the development of National Forest Programmes (*nfps*) and to identify strategies that would allow *nfps* to effectively address this issue;
- To share experiences of countries that have decentralized their forestry systems some time ago with countries currently undergoing rapid processes of decentralization, including transitional aspects of decentralization;
- To derive lessons learnt from countries that have implemented decentralization, for use, where suitable, in other countries in the process of decentralization;
- To prepare reflections and proposals for consideration related to decentralization, federal/centralized systems of forestry and their implications on *nfp* for UNFF 4 (3-14 May 2004 in Geneva).

The purpose of the discussions is not to determine whether the growing role of local and regional governments is effective or ineffective, but rather to find ways to improve the quality of "on the ground" forest-related activities. Therefore the conference will keep a balanced approach in regard to centralization/ decentralization. Particular attention will be focused on problems that occur in transitional phases of decentralization processes.

Content

The Workshop will focus predominantly on the need to consider the interests of stakeholders at various levels including local, state, provincial and national governments as well as at a watershed or ecosystem level (e.g. crucial environmental

services; conflicts related to externalities between local, indigenous and other people). A priority will be to understand how those processes interact with what goes on in communities. Among other topics, it will address how to handle important elements at national level (e.g. rehabilitation and logging legislation), as well as global environmental services such as aspects of biodiversity conservation and climate change within a decentralized context.

The workshop will include segments and parallel sessions designed to allow countries to present their own experiences with decentralized forest management, to disseminate the results of studies on decentralization, to analyze the implications of decentralization for *nfps* and to hold working groups to prepare proposals for consideration by UNFF 4. One day will be dedicated to field visits designed to acquaint participants with the Swiss experience in decentralized landscape and forest management.

The workshop will be conducted in English only. For the field trips simultaneous translation Swiss German/English will be provided.

Preliminary Program

Monday 26 April

Registration

Tuesday 27 April

Registration, inauguration, workshop objectives and mechanisms; Overview presentation on decentralization in plenary; Country presentations; Thematic discussions in parallel sessions

Wednesday 28 April

Field trips: Their aim is to develop a common understanding about the key issues and to facilitate communication between the participants. The focus will be on the interfaces between the national, cantonal (regional) and community level, and the private forest ownership

Gala dinner

Thursday 29 April

Reflection on lessons from the field trips; Parallel round table presentations and discussions; Working groups draft recommendations to UNFF 4

Friday 30 April

Working groups discuss draft recommendations; Plenary discussion on draft recommendations; Final recommendations

Target audience

INVITATION WILL BE SENT TO PARTICIPANTS. About 120 participants will include representatives of developing, developed and transition countries, international organizations, representatives of local, provincial, state and national governments, community and indigenous people organizations, NGOs and the private sector. A resourceful regional representation will be identified. The organizers will also invite a number of local government and community representatives to participate in some of the meetings.

UK



USA

